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OMCT
OPERATING THE SOS-TORTURE NETWORK

ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA TORTURE
WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
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Case IDN/TMP 120499.CC
CHILD CONCERN

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your URGENT intervention in the following situation in **East Timor/Indonesia.**

Brief description of the situation

The International Secretariat of OMCT has just been informed of further acts of harassment and violence against civilians, including minors, in East Timor.

According to the East Timor Human Rights Centre (ETHRC), member of the OMCT network, on April 4 1999, at 7 a.m., the paramilitary group, Besi Merah Putiih, supported by the military, shot civilians from the Hamlet of Fatubelete, village of Vatubou, sub-district of Maurara and Mauboke, in the border between Maubara and Liquica.

As a result of this attack, eight people were severely injured, among them a child. There are unconfirmed reports alleging that other persons have died. One person was subjected to torture. The child injured has been identified as **Jose Cerilio dos Santos**, aged 17, student, who received injuries on his left leg. He is receiving treatment at a Catholic Policlinic in Dili.

In addition, on April 6 1999, between 25 and 45 people were killed in the town of Liquica, 30 kilometers west of Dili, capital of East Timor

See Urgent Appeal Case IDN/TMP 120499 released today regarding the adults victims.

Remarks

The International Secretariat of OMCT is gravely concerned by the escalation of violence in East Timor, in particular, human rights violations against defenseless adults and minors perpetrated by paramilitary groups, believed to be armed and trained by the Indonesian military. These attacks seem to be related with an apparent intention by some members of the Indonesian military to sabotage peace efforts. According to reports, violence has substantially escalated in East Timor since Indonesian authorities stated in January that they would grant East Timor independence if they reject wide-ranging autonomy.

Action requested

Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to :

i. guarantee an impartial and exhaustive inquiry into the aforementioned incident, including the links between the military, police and paramilitary groups, identify those responsible, bring them to trial, and apply the penal, civil, and/or administrative sanctions provided by law;

ii. provide immediate, adequate and free medical care to **Jose Cerilio dos Santos** and ensure adequate restitution, compensation, and rehabilitation ;

iii. allow immediate access into all areas of East Timor for UN human rights monitors and international and local human rights non-governmental organizations, in order to ensure human rights monitoring,

iv. take immediate measures to disarm all paramilitary groups in East Timor and ensure that those responsible be brought to trial and sanctioned in accordance with international human rights standards ;

v. ensure guarantees of non-repetition of the human rights violations ;

vi. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international human rights standards, particularly the Convention on the rights of the Child ratified by Indonesia;

Addresses

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Resort Military Command (KOREM), Colonel Tono Suratman, Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma Dili, East Timor, Faxes: +62 390 21 624=20

Military Commander Region IX/Udayana (includes East Timor), General Syahrir MS Pangdam IX/Udayana, Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali INDONESIA, Telephone: +62 361 228 095

Copies to :

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Alatas S.H, Menteri Luar Negeri, Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No. 6 Jakarta, INDONESIA, Faxes: +62 21 360 541 / 360 517 / 380 5511 / 345 7782 / 724 5354

Diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country

Geneva, April 12 1999

Kindly inform the International Secretariat of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply